



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Department of Planning and Development

Diane M. Sugimura, Director

CITY OF SEATTLE ANALYSIS AND DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Application Number: 2406263
Applicant Name: John Bund for David Beninger
Address of Proposal: 3211 Perkins Ln W

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION

Shoreline Substantial Development Permit for construction of a 175-foot retaining wall and repair of an existing pathway for an existing single family residence in an environmentally critical area.

Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) requires the following approval:

Shoreline Substantial Development Permit - To allow an accessory use (retaining wall and related grading) in an Urban Residential (UR) shoreline environment. (SMC 23.60.020 and 23.60.540)

SEPA DETERMINATION: ☒ Exempt ☐ DNS ☐ MDNS ☐ EIS
☐ DNS with conditions
☐ DNS involving non-exempt grading or demolition or involving another agency with jurisdiction.

BACKGROUND DATA

Site Location and Zoning Designation

The project site is located in the Magnolia neighborhood, on the west side of the 3200 block of Perkins Ln W - northwest of the intersection of W Dravus St and Magnolia Blvd W. The development site is within an Urban Residential (UR) shoreline environment and an underlying Single Family 7200 (SF7200) zone.



Project Description

The proposed development or construction is to repair an existing pathway, install a maximum eight (8) tall soldier-pile retaining wall, and place approximately 1,700 cu. yds. of backfill materials over a lightweight “geofoam” west of the existing residence¹.

Public Comments

Public notice of the project application was published on December 23, 2004. The required public comment period ended on January 5, 2005. DPD received no comments on this proposal.

ANALYSIS - SHORELINE SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Section 23.60.030 of the Seattle Municipal Code provides criteria for review of a shoreline substantial development permit and reads: *A substantial development permit shall be issued only when the development proposed is consistent with:*

- A. *The policies and procedures of Chapter 90.58 RCW;*
- B. *The regulations of this Chapter; and*
- C. *The provisions of Chapter 173-27 WAC*

Conditions may be attached to the approval of a permit as necessary to assure consistency of the proposed development with the Seattle Shoreline Master Program and the Shoreline Management Act.

Chapter 90.58 RCW is known as the Shoreline Management Act of 1971. It is the policy of the state to provide for the management of the shorelines of the state by planning for and fostering all reasonable and appropriate uses. This policy seeks to protect against adverse effects to the public health, the land and its vegetation and wildlife, and the waters of the state and their aquatic life, while protecting generally public rights of navigation and corollary incidental rights. Permitted uses in the shorelines shall be designed and conducted in a manner to minimize, insofar as practical, any resultant damage to the ecology and environment of the shoreline area and any interference with the public’s use of the water. The proposed improvements to the project site would not adversely impact the state-wide interest of protecting the resources and ecology of the shoreline, and the improvements would provide for the continued use of the site for residential use. The subject application is consistent with the procedures outlined in RCW 90.58.

The Shoreline Management Act provides definitions and concepts, and gives primary responsibility for initiating and administering the regulatory program of the Act to local governments. The Department of Ecology is to primarily act in a supportive and review capacity, with primary emphasis on ensuring compliance with the policy and provisions of the Act. As a result of this Act, the City of Seattle adopted a local shoreline master program, codified in the Seattle Municipal Code at Chapter 23.60, that also incorporates the provisions of Chapter 173-27, WAC. Title 23 of the Municipal Code is also referred to as the Land Use and Zoning Code. Development on

¹ See <http://www.geofoam.com/>. “Geofoam is used in fill applications where a lightweight material is required to reduce stresses on underlying soils or lateral pressures to retaining walls, abutments or foundations. It has been used in applications worldwide for over 30 years. R-Control EPS Geofoam is a cellular plastic material that is strong, but has a very low density - 1 percent of traditional earth materials. It is produced in block form and is easily positioned at the work site. R-Control EPS Geofoam is unaffected by normally occurring weather at the time of installation and will retain its physical properties under engineered conditions of use.”

the shorelines of the state is not to be undertaken unless it is consistent with the policies and provisions of the Act, and with the local master program. The Act sets out procedures, such as public notice and appeal requirements, and penalties for violating its provisions which have also been set forth in the Land Use Code.

In evaluating requests for substantial development permits, the Director must determine that a proposed use meets the relevant criteria set forth in the Land Use Code. The Shoreline Goals and Policies, part of the Seattle Comprehensive Plan, and the purpose and locational criteria for each shoreline environment must be considered. A proposal must be consistent with the general development standards of section 23.60.152, the specific standards of the shoreline environment and underlying zoning designation, any applicable special approval criteria, and the development standards for specific uses.

The proposed development actions occur on land classified as a waterfront lot (SMC 23.60.924) and is located within an Urban Residential (UR) shoreline environment. The proposed improvements are associated with an existing residence and as such are a permitted use in the UR shoreline environment and the underlying SF7200 zone.

Shoreline Policies

All discretionary decisions in the shoreline district require consideration of the Shoreline Goals and Policies, which are part of the Seattle Comprehensive Plan's Land Use Element, and consideration of the purpose and locational criteria for each shoreline environment designation contained in SMC 23.60.220. The policies support designating areas intended primarily for residential use and the designation of single-family residential areas predominantly developed with single-family structures large enough to maintain a low-density development pattern (please refer to Land Use Policies L54 and L56). An area objective for the Puget Sound is to protect the fragile ecology of the natural beaches and fish migration routes, and protect areas developed for residential use in a manner consistent with the Single Family and Multi-family Residential Area Policies (please refer to Area Objectives for Seattle's Shoreline, Policy L354 1a). The purpose of the Urban Residential (UR) environment as set forth in Section 23.60.220 C6 is to protect residential areas.

The proposed improvements to the existing residential site would facilitate the continued use of the area for residential use as supported by UR shoreline environment and the policies set forth in the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Installation of a retaining wall would provide for improved site stability and repairs of the existing pathway would enhance user safety.

SMC 23.60.152 - Development Standards for all Shoreline Environments

These general standards apply to all uses in the shoreline environments. They require that design and construction of all uses be conducted in an environmentally sound manner, consistent with the Shoreline Management Program and with best management practices for the specific use or activity. All shoreline development and uses are subject to the following:

- A. The location, design, construction and management of all shoreline developments and uses shall protect the quality and quantity of surface and ground water on and adjacent to the lot and shall adhere to the guidelines, policies, standards and regulations of applicable water quality management programs and regulatory agencies. Best management

practices such as...fugitive dust controls and other good housekeeping measures to prevent contamination of land or water shall be required.

- B. Solid and liquid wastes and untreated effluents shall not enter any bodies of water or be discharged onto the land.
- C. Facilities, equipment and established procedures for the containment, recovery and mitigation of spilled petroleum products shall be provided at recreational marinas, commercial moorage, vessel repair facilities, marine service stations and any use regularly servicing vessels....
- D. The release of oil, chemicals or other hazardous materials onto or into the water shall be prohibited. Equipment for the transportation, storage, handling or application of such materials shall be maintained in a safe and leak proof condition. If there is evidence of leakage, the further use of such equipment shall be suspended until the deficiency has been satisfactorily corrected.
- E. All shoreline developments and uses shall minimize any increases in surface runoff, and control, treat and release surface water runoff so that receiving water quality and shore properties and features are not adversely affected. Control measures may include, but are not limited to, dikes, catchbasins or settling ponds, interceptor drains and planted buffers.
- F. All shoreline developments and uses shall utilize permeable surfacing where practicable to minimize surface water accumulation and runoff.
- G. All shoreline developments and uses shall control erosion during project construction and operation.
- H. All shoreline developments and uses shall be located, designed, constructed and managed to avoid disturbance, minimize adverse impacts and protect fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas including, but not limited to, spawning, nesting, rearing and habitat areas, commercial and recreational shellfish areas, kelp and eel grass beds, and migratory routes. Where avoidance of adverse impacts is not practicable, project mitigation measures relating the type, quantity and extent of mitigation to the protection of species and habitat functions may be approved by the Director in consultation with state resource management agencies and federally recognized tribes.
- I. All shoreline developments and uses shall be located, designed, constructed and managed to minimize interference with or adverse impacts to beneficial natural shoreline processes such as water circulation, littoral drift, sand movement, erosion and accretion.
- J. All shoreline developments and uses shall be located, designed, constructed and managed in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts to surrounding land and water uses and is compatible with the affected area.
- K. Land clearing, grading, filling and alteration of natural drainage features and landforms shall be limited to the minimum necessary for development. Surfaces cleared of vegetation and not to be developed shall be replanted. Surface drainage systems or substantial earth modifications shall be professionally designed to prevent maintenance problems or adverse impacts on shoreline features.

- L. All shoreline development shall be located, constructed and operated so as not to be a hazard to public health and safety.
- M. All development activities shall be located and designed to minimize or prevent the need for shoreline defense and stabilization measures and flood protection works such as bulkheads, other bank stabilization, landfills, levees, dikes, groins, jetties or substantial site regrades.
- N. All debris, overburden and other waste materials from construction shall be disposed of in such a way as to prevent their entry by erosion from drainage, high water or other means into any water body.
- O. Navigation channels shall be kept free of hazardous or obstructing development or uses.
- P. No pier shall extend beyond the outer harbor or pierhead line except in Lake Union where piers shall not extend beyond the Construction Limit Line as shown in the Official Land Use Map, Chapter 23.32, or except where authorized by this chapter and by the State Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

As proposed and as conditioned below, the project complies with the above shoreline development standards. As conditioned, the short-term construction related activities should have minimal effects on migratory fish routes and do not warrant further conditioning.

The Stormwater, Grading and Drainage Control Code (SMC 22.800) places considerable emphasis on improving water quality. In conjunction with this effort DPD developed a Director's Rule 2000-16, to apply best management practices (BMPs) to prevent erosion and sedimentation from leaving construction sites or where construction will impact receiving waters. Due to the extent of the proposed work associated with installation of the retaining wall and repair of an existing pathway for an existing single family residence, the potential exists for impacts to Puget Sound during construction. Therefore, approval of the substantial development permit will be conditioned to require application of construction best management practices (BMPs). Completion of the attachment to the Director's Rule and adherence to the measures outlined in the attachment shall constitute compliance with BMP measures.

SMC 23.60.570 – Development standards for the UR Environment

The proposal conforms to all of the development standards for the UR environment.

Conclusion

SMC Section 23.60.064E provides authority for conditioning of shoreline substantial development permits as necessary to carry out the spirit and purpose of and assure compliance with the Seattle Shoreline Code, Chapter 23.60, and with RCW 90.58.020 (State policy and legislative findings).

WAC 173-27 establishes basic rules for the permit system to be adopted by local governments, pursuant to the language of RCW 90.58. It provides the framework for permits to be administered by local governments, including time requirements of permits, revisions to permits, notice of application, formats for permits, and provisions for review by the state's Department of Ecology (DOE). As the Seattle Shoreline Master Program has been approved by DOE, consistency with the criteria and procedures of SMC Chapter 23.60 is also consistency with WAC 173-27 and RCW 90.58.

Thus, as conditioned below, the proposal is consistent with the criteria for a shoreline substantial development permit and may be approved.

DECISION - SHORELINE SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Shoreline Substantial Development permit is **CONDITIONALLY GRANTED** subject to the conditions listed at the end of this report.

CONDITIONS - SHORELINE

Prior to Issuance of the Building Permit

1. Submit a completed drainage control plan that complies with SMC 22.802.020 B2d and Director's Rule 2000-16, (Category 2) BMPs for Construction Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plans. Adherence to the measures outlined in the attachment shall mitigate erosion and sedimentation impacts to Puget Sound.

During Construction

2. The owner(s) and/or responsible party(ies) shall take care to prevent debris from entering the water during construction and to remove debris promptly if it does enter the water. Materials and construction methods shall be used which prevent toxic materials, petrochemicals and other pollutants from entering surface water during and after construction. Appropriate equipment and material for hazardous material cleanup must be kept at the site.
3. All disposed materials must be deposited in a landfill, which meets the liner and leachate standards of the Minimum Functional Standards, Chapter 173-304 WAC.

Signature: _____ (signature on file) Date: March 3, 2005
Colin R. Vasquez, Senior Land Use Planner

CRV:bg

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